

## *Congressional Investigations:*

### INTRODUCTION

**T**HIS ISSUE of the *LAW REVIEW* seeks to examine the legislative inquiry from many points of view. Professor McGeary provides the historical perspective. The legislator's appraisal of congressional investigations is presented by Senator Fulbright and Representative Meader. Former Congressman Jerry Voorhis describes the practical politics involved in the initiation and conduct of inquiries. These four articles present the background, the objectives and the mechanics of the investigating process.

The next two articles are concerned with abuses and their reform. Professor Lindsay Rogers makes a frontal attack on the whole institution and suggests a remedy. George Galloway provides a comprehensive study of the provisions of the current reform proposals.

The symposium then proceeds to consider other aspects of the problem. Fritz Morstein Marx discusses the relation of the investigating power to the administrative process and the significance of party organization. The British Parliament's methods for discharging the various functions carried on by American investigating committees are described by Professor Herman Finer. Professor Edward Shils supplies insights as to why the modern committee operates as it does by considering some of the factors affecting the conduct of legislators. The important role of the press in reporting investigations and in analyzing them editorially is the subject of Irving Dilliard's article. This is followed by an examination of the newspapers' immunity from defamation for republishing the words of congressmen.

Proceeding from generalization to particularity, the issue finds Professor Carr making a definitive study of the Un-American Activities Committee with concentration on the central civil liberties question—the status of witnesses. Donald Cook's contribution shows the Senate's "Watchdog" Committee acting as a check on the executive branch. Two case studies of Congress probing into questions of public concern conclude the section—the Lobbying Investigation of 1949 and the Celler Committee hearings on monopoly power in the steel industry.

The issue is rounded out by four book reviews. Rebecca West casts a

skeptical eye on the existence of *A Generation on Trial*. Professors Meiklejohn and Horn view *National Security and Individual Freedom* and *Witch Hunt* in the context of the current political and intellectual climate. Mr. Parson is concerned with freedom and the *Legal Control of the Press*.

It is hoped that the method of coverage adopted by this issue will permit the formation of reasoned opinions on this vital institution.